

CONFIRMATION
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REMARKS

Applicant hereby responds to the Office Action mailed on August 9, 2004, of which this response is filed within the three month shortened statutory period for response. Claims 17-19, 22-25, 31-33, 36, 38-45, 51, 55 and 56 were pending in this application and the Examiner allowed Claims 22-25, 31-33, 36, 38-45, 51, 55 and 56, objected to claims 18 and 19 and rejected claim 17. Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, Claims 18-19, 22-25, 31-33, 36, 38-45, 51, 55 and 56 are pending in the application.

The Examiner re-asserts the Restriction Requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 requiring restriction of the application from the previous Office Action dated May 27, 2004, of which Applicant submitted a response selecting Group I on June 3, 2004. Per the Examiner's request, Applicant hereby re-affirms this election.

The Examiner rejects claim 17 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker (6,163,771) in view of Franklin (5,883,810) and further in view of Teicher (6,065,675). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant cancels claim 17 without prejudice to filing one or more continuation applications with similar or identical claims. As such, the Examiner's rejection is now moot.

The Examiner next objects claims 18-19 as being dependent on a rejected base claim. To expedite prosecution of this matter, Applicant amends claims 18-19 to incorporate all the elements of independent claim 17. As such, independent claims 18-19 are now in condition for allowance.

Application Serial No. 09/800,461
Docket No. 40655.0700
Response/Amendment dated August 12, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed on August 9, 2004

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Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. No new matter is added in this Response. Reconsideration of the application is thus requested. Applicant invites the Office to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response or the present application in general.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 12, 2004

By: _____

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